



VOL. I.—No. 2.

WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 1873.

PRICE 2 1/2 D.

THE HIGHLAND JEWELLERY ESTABLISHMENT,
CORNER OF UNION STREET,
(Opposite the Old Scotch Hotel),
INVERNESS.

FERGUSON BROTHERS,
DESIGNERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF SCOTTISH
JEWELLERY, BY APPOINTMENT TO HER H. THE
PRINCE OF WALES.

FERGUSON BROTHERS have much pleasure in announcing that they have now in stock the largest and most varied assortment of JEWELLERY that has ever shown. The London-made Jewellery has been selected by them from the best houses in the trade, and for true art feeling and tastefulness of ornamentation, cannot be surpassed.

The very extensive selection of their own Manufacture, combines gracefulness of outline with quality and strength, which are always important desiderata in all articles of Jewellery; and their long and careful study to develop the rare and peculiar beauties of SCOTCH AND LOCAL GEMS has enabled them to utilize not only the more rare, but also the Granite and other Stones peculiar to the HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

The articles of Jewellery designed and Registered by FERGUSON BROTHERS have now obtained a very high reputation; and are allowed by connoisseurs to be of such very high excellence that they have every confidence in recommending the following:—The SCOTCHLAND BROOCH, the Girdle, Paragon, and Macdonald's Claws, as Brooches and Ear-rings, the CLAW AND LEAF VINE GARNETTES, which are the greatest novelties produced for many years.

The old conventional patterns of ANCIENT CELTIC ORNAMENTS, the original styles of which have been preserved, and while justly admired for diversity, peculiarity, and elevation of design, can serve to mark an epoch or event of national interest. The Mary Queen of Scots' expressive Brooch, The Glenelg and Loch Brooches, exact copies of the original. The Cruphath Brooch (representing the Roman Fibula or Toga Fastening), the Collared Brooch, the Clasp Brooch, the Double Heart, &c., Cross, Staghorn, and Balg Brooches, with Ear-rings to match. The Monogram Collar Fastening. The Unique Crest Brooch, and Motto Brooch.

The Lorn Bracelet, the Hunter-on Braclet, the Highland Bracelet, besides a variety of other Bracelets, set with Scotch Pearls, Carnations, &c.

HIGHLAND DRESS ORNAMENTS, Dicks, Siccan-Dicks, Sporrans, Shoulder Brooches, and Kilt Fastenings, all of which are made under the immediate personal superintendence of the Firm.

CORNER OF UNION STREET,
INVERNESS.

C. AND J. MACDONALD, FLESHERS,
14 CASTLE STREET.
All orders punctually attended to, and only best Butcher Meat selected for Sale.

ALEXANDER MACDONALD, FLESHER,
No. 2 NEW MARKET
(Opp. the Old Scotch Hotel).

SUPPLIES ALL KINDS OF BUTCHER MEATS, OF THE FINEST QUALITY, AT THE LOWEST PRICES, and has a large and well-stocked larder.

JOHN TULLOCH, DECORATOR, PAINTER, GLAZIER, PAPERHANGER, GLAZIER, AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATE MAKER.
17 and 18 MADISON STREET, INVERNESS.
(Opp. the Old Scotch Hotel).

A variety of Pictures and Landscapes, and FRAMED HANGINGS.

J. MACNEILL, 80 CASTLE STREET, INVERNESS, EMERALD & PEARL MAKER.
Unfinished and Finished Emerald, Ruby, and Pearl Jewellery, and Pearls worn in the hair, and all without exception, a Stock of first-class Unfinished & Finished Jewellery, and all orders received by Messrs. O'Brien & Macdonald, George Street, G. H. Mackintosh, Nairn; Guthrie & Co., Perth; Wilson, L.M.

JAMES GORDON, GROCER AND WINE MERCHANT,
40 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

Has just received a lot of TEA, which he intends selling at 2s. 6d., 3s., and 4s. 6d. per cask. The above deserves the attention of ready-money buyers.

ESTABLISHED 1760.
COMPLETION OF ALTERATIONS.

ANDREW SMITH & CO. beg to announce that they have now completed their Extensive Alterations, and have added largely to their facilities for transacting business, at the same time that they have greatly increased their STOCK OF REALLY FIRST-CLASS GOODS.

They would avail themselves of this occasion to thank their many friends for the large amount of support so long accorded to their House, and to state that they are determined to continue the reputation of this Establishment, by keeping Goods supplied by none but the best Manufacturers, and purchasing with ready money, thus ensuring to those who deal with them the best articles at lowest prices.

By enlarging and re-arranging their Premises, they are enabled to add two entirely New DEPARTMENTS, long desiderated in Inverness, and often urged upon their own consideration by their best supporters.

On the 1st of May the DRESS AND MANTLE MAKING DEPARTMENTS

will be opened, and placed under the active management of Miss Mackay, a lady of large and varied experience, acquired in the best Mourning Warehouses in Edinburgh, and for the past four years Head Dressmaker with Messrs. Cunningham and Bonner, Penicuik Street. Ladies may thus feel assured that high orders being executed in the highest style and finish.

THE DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT

will be found larger and more varied than our old premises, and with all the leading materials of British and Continental Manufacture. This would especially invite attention to a large delivery of READY-MADE in the celebrated makers of Bonnets, Tricots, &c., and Albert, Lyons, Andrus and Co. makes, which are always reliable.

THE MOURNING DEPARTMENT

at all times receives our careful attention.

THE CARPET DEPARTMENT

(This Department has been made a speciality. The selection is the largest ever seen in the north. The styles, the style, and the patterns are so far the special property of this House, that the Stock has been manufactured exclusively for it, with the view of affording the inhabitants of the north of Scotland facilities in every way equal to those of the manufacturing districts of the South. Carpets (with or without Borderings), Cumbriolites, Theatricals, Linoleum, &c., cut, fitted, and laid down to any size and color.

A large and beautiful assortment of Rugs, Persian, Repas, Madras, Lawe, and Leno Curtains in all sizes and qualities, as well as all other goods requisite for

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS.

GENTLEMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

(The choice in this Department is unusually large and varied. It comprises West of England, &c. coatings, Trouserings, and everything pertaining to gentlemen's Wear, by the best Manufacturers.

ORFÈRE DEPARTMENT.

The arrangement in this Department is now so complete, as to insure the utmost despatch in all the business.

TERMS.

To be on true and intelligible terms with our customers, we shall in future mark the Prices of all Goods, and in proportion to the cash value of the materials, we have determined to shorten the time allowed for Credit.

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HIGHLAND JEWELLERY,
AT
THE NEWEST DESIGNS FOR LADIES.

AT
WILLIAM FRASER'S,
1 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

ESTABLISHED 1867.

MR W. MACKAY begs to intimate his Return from LONDON AND PARIS.

with a LARGE STOCK OF NEW GOODS, and to his confidence in stating that his Stock will surpass the most EXTENSIVE VARIETY, and the FINEST QUALITY of Dress Goods he has hitherto submitted for inspection.

GRAN TARTAN AND TWIL DRESS GOODS, ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS, Inverness, May 1873.

FORBES AND MACDONALD,
FAMILY GROCERS AND WINE MERCHANTS,
40-1 HIGH STREET, INVERNESS.

MR WHYTE'S NEW PREMISES, with spacious and improved SHOP, 75 CH. ST. STREET, opposite the Commercial Bank, will be opened about the 25th May. It is desirable that all Debtors be paid by the 15th of June.

ELLIOT & CO., BUTCHERS, DRUMMOND STREET, INVERNESS.

beg to inform their Customers, and parties visiting the Highlands during the Summer and shooting seasons, that they have, as usual, kept a lot of Fat Stock for the special purpose of providing a regular supply of Meat of the best quality. All orders will receive their immediate attention.

May 1873.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND SCULPTURE AND MONUMENTAL
PRESTON, MARBLE, AND STEAM POLISHED GRANITE WORKS,
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

DAVID FORBES & CO.,
BUTCHERS AND WINE MERCHANTS, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

TRY KINLOCH'S CATALAN
Piano and Organ Works, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

PIANO FORTE TUNING AND
REPAIRING, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

WILLIAM FRASER & CO.,
JEWELLERS AND SILVER SMITHS, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

1000 NEW PAPERS to commence them, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

MACKAY & CAMERON, 23 to 25 High Street, Edinburgh.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

RECENT elections have produced a very painful impression on the minds of the "wire-pullers" at the Reform Club. Speaking to one of these gentlemen last night, I was assured that the leaders of the party had now little or no hope of being able to retain a fair working majority after the general election, which my friend considered could not be long deferred. He said that in England the ranks of the Liberals were certain to be sadly thinned, and that many thought the Irish representation would be almost exclusively composed of Home Rulers and Tories. "Scotland," he added, "is Radical to the core, and we do not fear any great falling off there." He alluded, with much complacency, to the attitude assumed by the constituents of Messrs. Aytoun, Macfie and Bonnerie, and expressed the hope that St. Stephen's would soon see the list of the latter gentlemen. I sincerely trust that he will be disappointed, for Mr Bonnerie is one of the most valuable men in the present House of Commons. His ability is of a very high order, and his independence is undoubted. He supports the Ministry just so far as his views will allow him, but no further, and Mr Glyn, most adroit of "Whips," never knows when to reckon on his vote. Mr Bonnerie says unpleasant things in a most unpleasant manner, and there is no greater parliamentary treat to see him sustain the part of "candid friend" to Mr Gladstone, by far, therefore, to be desired that Kilmarnock will not break with its old foe.

The Marquis of Lorne—"Princess Louise's young man as the *Scotsman* has called him—is coming gradually to the fore, and bids fair to become a popular and useful public character. The alliance of the House of Argyle with that of Hanover was not at first regarded with favour in this country, and the young Marquis did not make many friends for a long time. His personal appearance, which is, to say the least, not imposing, and his manners and turn of thought, which are more those of a *petit maitre* than a high-born courtier, are a decided barrier to popularity in England, where people think princes should have robust minds in robust bodies. First impressions are, however, wearing off, and, I am glad to say it is now becoming apparent that the Marquis possesses a fund of good sense and good feeling, which must ultimately endear him to those amongst whom he lives. His proposal recently made to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to inaugurate a monument on behalf of the poor clergy of the Established Church, has raised him immensely in the eyes of the whole community, and the decided stand he has taken against "the shrieking sisterhood" has also won him golden opinions. He not only voted against Mr Jacob Bright's Female Suffrage Bill, but he has only consented to preside at the approaching meeting of the Society for Improving the Education of Women, on receiving an assurance that no ladies should be allowed to speak!

Great anxiety continues to exist in Roman Catholic circles, notwithstanding the late telegrams, as to the condition of the Pope, and a speedy and fatal termination of his illness is feared by many. He would be much lamented by large numbers of Englishmen who, whilst allowing the religious system of which he is the head, have always been loud in their praise of the genial and benevolent gentleman whom none could fail to discover in the venerable Pius Nonus. Speculation as to his successor is very rife amongst clerical members of the ancient faith, but no well-informed person here believes the newspaper report that Archbishop Manning is likely to obtain a majority of the votes of the Sacred College.

Speaking of matters Roman Catholic, it may not be amiss to chronicle the fact that Mr. Layson, having been deprived of the title of "Father" by the Church, has had it conferred upon him by Madame Layson. The ex-staymaker from New York has presented her husband, the eloquent Pere Hyacinthe, with a son.

Breadth, the blasphemer, and his sixty-nine brother demagogues, brought their Republican conference to a close in Birmingham some days since, and the rebellious "Iron-List" of the *Voluntary Reformer*, is now in Madrid with an address of sympathy for Senor Castelar. The latter has, probably, never heard of the three saluts of Tooley Street, and, as I fear the *Highlander* is not likely to reach Madrid for some days, I will not further pursue the leader of the English Republicans. I may, nevertheless, add that Mr Breadth and the Rev. Mr Brown Grant are shortly to have a grand controversy on the rival merits of Christianity and Atheism. This theological contest is to come off in one of our large public halls.

Newspaper proprietors and promoters are very active just now. The *Telegraph* and *News* are vying with each other in the matter of early information, and the *Klaxon* telegrams of the former are attracting much attention. Should they prove genuine, they will add enormously to the prestige of "the" largest circulation in the world. New journals, or old ones revived, are sprouting up all around us.

Johns, the new satirical journal, is the *Tamworth* re-christened. It has many "smart" writers on the staff, but we cannot predict for it a very prosperous career.

T. Agnew's "interviewer" A few short years since Mr Gladstone's Ministry entered office with the holy resolve to reduce speedily and suppress sinners. A few days since we find Mr Glyn issuing an energetic "whip," calling on the Government supporters to vote against the proposed abolition of the office of Lord Privy Seal!

Mr Mull's motion drew forth a most impassioned speech from Mr Gladstone. There rarely, indeed, seen

him apparently so thoroughly in earnest. Springing to his feet he at once dashed headlong into the fray, and proceeded to assail the position assumed by the member for Bradford with a vehemence which he has not displayed for many a day. There was nothing uncertain in the Premier's warfare. He crushed his enemy with his heavy guns, and galled him with a fire of small missiles. When he resumed his seat the struggle was over, and all the honours rested with the defenders of "The Church as by law established." Still the assailants have not lost heart. Defeat they knew was inevitable, and, although it was more complete than they expected, they are not cast down. They believe that time is on their side, and they hope that the Prime Minister may live to die by the Church of England as he did by that of Ireland, and I can only say that more unlikely things have happened in Mr Gladstone's career. Several points connected with the division are remarkable. In the first place, ten of Mr Gladstone's colleagues absented themselves on the occasion, as did also the Irish Roman Catholics. Mr John Bright came to town expressly to vote for Mr Mull, but Scotland gave a majority of three to one against disestablishment.

The movement to raise a national memorial to Mr Mill is gaining ground rapidly, and most of the leading men of both political parties have already joined it. Mr Disraeli still holds aloof, but the author of "Lothian" always affected to despise "the philosophers."

OUR EDINBURGH LETTER.

TUESDAY EVENING.

Much rain, no sun, cold and raw weather have been the chief characteristics of the past week here. There is little to chronicle interesting to Northerners, unless in the way of coming events, that cast their shadow before, such as the meeting of the General Assembly on the 22d; the meeting of the Mid-Lothian Rifle Association on the 16th June (the programme of which has just been issued), and the Scottish Metropolitan Dog Show, which opened to-day. An event of the week which will call forth universal regret, is the death of Dr Mackintosh Mackay, which took place at his residence at Portobello, on Saturday. A minister, successively in Laggan, Pinmore, Australia, and lately in Harris, there were few men better known or held in higher esteem. To him we owe, in a great measure, the *Gaelic Dictionary* of the Highland Society, in itself a lasting monument to his memory.

It is gratifying to learn that Charles Mackay, LL.D., is still pursuing his Celtic studies, and that one result of his labours in this department is to be published shortly in a volume, entitled the "*Gaelic Etymology of English, &c.*" Nearly twenty years ago Dr Mackay favoured the English reading public in the preface to a collection of *Scottish Songs*, which has since gone through more than one edition with the following estimate of the poetry and music of the Gael: "an estimate worth quoting as it has been much referred to by the imititated; and coming, as it does, from the most popular song writer of the day." "Nearly all the beautiful music, and delicious sketches of song, commonly considered to be Scottish, belong to that section of Scotland, known as the Lowlands, and a country in which the people speak one of the many Doric dialects of the Saxon English language. If a line be drawn from Greenock on the Clyde, north-east by Perth to Inverness, it will be found that by far the greater portion of the songs and melodies which are known as Scotch to Scotchmen, and to the world, and of which Scotchmen speak with the highest pride and enthusiasm, have been produced to the south and east of it."

North-west of that line is the land of the Gael, of the semi-barbarous and imperfect instrument, the bagpipe, of wild pibroch tunes, of rude melodies, very little known and still less admired, and of a species of song which has rarely been considered worth the trouble of translation. But on the south-east of the line, and all the way to the English border, where the Saxon tongue prevails, and where the minds of the people have for ages had access to English literature, (O, my country!) the land is vocal with sweet sounds.

The Highlander, who has no right or title to this music (?) or song, is as proud of both as the Lowlander, and not infrequently claims for his own wild melodies, and for his rude attempts? (Professor Blackie?) to the rescue! at lyrical poetry in the language of the Gael, a large portion of the admiration lavished upon compositions of a totally different origin and character. The Lowlanders, while they admit the claim of the Highlanders, take to themselves the title that is good in Celtic music and song, in order that with it they may swell the triumphs of a land, that being geographically English is considered to be Scotch. Further, in his "*Jacodite ballads*," published more recently, and as illustrative of his still pursuing the subject with interest, we are told that these, our "*Jacodite ballads*," as far as they are known, are more uniformly plaintive (shades of *Mochoir Mac Mochoir*!) and melancholy than their southern counterparts. Comparatively little is known of them, their language renders them a sealed book, to three-fourths of their countrymen. Learned antiquaries understanding *Eso* are not many, and even these have not thought it worth their while to collect the scattered fragments of a rude literature, which re-echoed and re-echoed by the classes who purchase and read books. A few of them have been made known to the general public through the translations? (O "of the Ettrick Shepherd and others; and where these have not been circulated and mangled by the ill-haste of the translator, in rendering them into the broken and imperfect jargon

of a Highlander's first attempts to speak English, are creditable" (really?) "to the passion of the Celtic muse, and to the zeal" (oh, dear!) "of the people in behalf of their native principles."

There! let our Gaelic societies look to it.

The announcement recently made of the appointment of Mr Albert Batten, a younger son of the well-known Lord of Fawcett, to the mastership in Edinburgh of that very prosperous concern the Union Bank of Scotland, will doubtless be hailed with much satisfaction in northern latitudes, especially by your Perthshire readers. We are certainly developing as a people, and, long ere the desecrated New Zealand arrives on British shores, we hope to have inscribed in our annals for his inspection, the names of many eminent financiers, hailing from the north. Time was when our old Highland lairds looked decidedly askance at all commercial callings, when the profession of arms alone was deemed worthy of a gentleman. This notion is almost exploded, better experience having taught them that if their ancient paternal possessions are to be retained, they must train up their sons to remunerative pursuits, even those with the taint of trade upon them. The example of a great Highland laird and chief in the west, whose ancestors have always been famous for their far-seeing wisdom, makes this doctrine now easier of digestion. Happy would it have been for many of them if they had learned the lesson somewhat earlier, the Highlands would not have resounded with unfamiliar names, nor themselves be landless and well-nigh forgotten.

OUR GLASGOW LETTER.

FOLLOWING, up my remarks of last week on the efforts being put forth by our countrymen in the Lowlands to foster national feeling and perpetuate national customs, it may not be out of place here to refer to one or two things that have, within the last few days, come under my own observation, as indicating some of the many ways in which the genuine Celt gives vent to his feelings. I was shown the other day, in one of the large manufacturing warehouses in this city, patterns of a certain tartan, both in chintz and in printed fabrics. They were, I learned, being prepared for a wealthy and enthusiastic Highlander of a *certain clan*, being a good distance from the Highlands, but who, to all appearance, is determined to bring the Highlands pretty close to his fireside as the price is for dresses to be worn by his numerous servants, and the chintz for the covering of his furniture. Our worthy Celt, however, is not satisfied with having his attendants dressed in tartan, and in reeking himself on couches covered with fabrics of a similar device, but he has a truly bad violent hands upon the crockery, and is about to put upon it also the same Celtic impress. Many of our Lowland friends will doubtless hold up their hands in horror, at the base idea of washing themselves out of a basin painted after the fashion say of a *Rob Roy* coat. Still it is all a matter of taste; and I am barbarian enough to confess that I should enjoy as much a bit of venison or a good steak out of a plate painted in Victoria tartan, as out of the best Staffordshire ware. All honour to the right-hearted Celt. I am not gifted with the second sight, but I may venture to predict that before a twelvemonth elapses there will be a host of imitators.

From tartan dresses and tartan-painted-crockery, the transition is easy to bagpipes. Writing of bagpipes, is it not a matter both of astonishment and regret that in the Vienna Exhibition, among all the exhibits of musical instruments, there is not a single bagpipe? What has come over our Hibernian friends who enjoyed last winter the unusual heat of a course of several lectures on this instrument? It is too late now to repair the loss, but surely it might have entered into the brains of our Celtic friends in Ireland to have sent, not only the several instruments they had to illustrate the lectures, but also a copy of the lectures by way of certifying to the antiquity of the bagpipe.

I do not know but it might be worth while to endeavour to rectify the omission. Some of the important papers that are found in such goodly numbers in Edinburgh and Leith, were to take ship to Hamburg, thence working his way through Germany, giving *Mein Herz*, in passing, specimens of Scotch music in return for the airs of the Fatherland, *damned* so perpetually into our ears by their brass bands, I think, on the whole, his trip would pay, and he would have the credit of making up for much remissness on the part of his countrymen. It took a long journey, much longer I should think than any ever undertaken by the famous Rob the Ranter, still I have substantial reasons for believing that pipes before now have travelled much farther. A friend of mine, a few evenings ago, told me that a Highlander, and as far as I remember either a Tyree or Mallman, captain of a large merchantman, once in Calcutta, was in a great strait to get a crew to work his ship. Strolling through the city one day he fell in with a couple of pipers. My informant, himself a seafaring man, told me that the two worthy musicians, though not so ignorant as not "to know a must from a minger," were not by any means much acquainted with seamanship. The Tycoon, however, was satisfied with their ability to play the bagpipes, and being passionately fond of Highland music, he shipped them as A.B.'s. Frequently, on quiet evenings afterwards, when moving slowly down the *Omoo* canal, the stirring strains of the bagpipe might be heard rising from the deck of the Tycoon's vessel.

The Tycoon was a worthy in his way. Another great freak of his was, whenever he fell in with another ship at sea he indulged in signalling to them in Gaelic. Of course the *ignominious* signalled to, set it down as

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING-ROOM.

MACGUFFY'S HOTEL,
LONDON, May 8th, 1873.

MY DEAR SANDY MACKENZIE,—

Me and my wife and daughter, and John, my son, was here about the Game Committee, as you know, and we got a grand chance this day. Maybe the minister will like to know as well as yourself all that we saw and heard, so you may tell the minister and Charles Mackenzie and Donald Macgillivray and any other lads that you meet in the clachan. I'm sure they will like as well to hear about the Queen's drawing-room as we did ourselves. Well then, as I was going about this morning before breakfast I noticed a lad opening a big coach-house door in the place that's at the back of the house that we lodge in. He pulled out a grand coach, and says I to him—says I, "that's a grand carriage; who will be the owner of that?" He was a civil lad, as ever you saw in Inverness; and he told me the name of the gentleman, and, what's more, he told me that the family was going to the Queen's drawing-room. So home I went to my breakfast, and told Mary, my wife, all that I had found out about the grand sight that was to be. Mary has friends in London, and that's why she came when I was sent for about the game. "Well," says Mary to me, "I was at my cousin's place yesterday, and I saw one of the grand dresses that is to be worn this day at the Queen's drawing-room, and that's better than seeing a coach. The dress will cost more than twenty-five pounds, and its for a young lassie; and, what's more," says Mary, "Maggie is going to see the dress upon the young lady herself, and I am going with her, and my cousin the dressmaker." My son John said nothing till he had all done, and then says he, "Mother, I have been to our cousin that is in the plate department at the palace, and he knows all the people about the place, and I am going to see all the ladies and all the dresses and all the ceremony in the Queen's drawing-room itself." "Well, well," says I, "I'll go and see the whole procession of carriages, with all the ladies, in all the dresses, inside, and maybe that will be as good a sight as any of you will see this day."

You see, Sandy, while I was thinking of the business that brought me to London, they were thinking of "vanity and vexation of spirit;" but so it always is with the young and foolish, more especially the young of the weaker sex. But, now I'll tell you what we all saw.

About twelve o'clock, or it may be a good few minutes before, I saw a bit bonny lassie and her mother driving past in a carriage with two grand grey horses in it, down towards the palace, and I thought it was time for me to go that way if I wanted to see any of the show. So off I goes dandling down the streets, and looking into all the carriages to see the fine ladies that were going to the Queen's drawing-room. Oh man but there was plenty of them, and preserve me but they were bonny. And Oh! but they were patient, good natured, grand folk. The carriages made "a string" as the policemen called it. The first carriage that got to the palace gate had to wait there, because the gate was shut, and the next had to wait behind that, because it could not get through the back of it, and the next was behind that. And so from the palace gate to the end of the string there was a row of carriages just like a row of carts drawing peats to the distillery, one behind the other for more than a mile. But Oh! Sandy, the sight that I saw this day in that string, the bonnies and the bold lasses, and the feathers and the lasses, and the lasses, and the faces that were inside of these carriages, I never shall forget till I am on my way to Gild na Mnoch, up the glen. I am sure it was more than two hours by the watch, before the first carriage got in at the gate, and me looking at the ladies all that time; and they told me that there was more than five strings all drawing people in one way from all airts. I am sure there was near about a thousand carriages, and two thousand horses, and three thousand men, drawing more than a thousand ladies, in dresses that cost more than twenty-five notes, to the Queen's drawing-room this day. I know well enough that the minister will say that it's all vanity and vexation of spirit, but, Oh! man, it was a grand sight. There was a decent lad, an Englishman there, that spoke to me, seeing I was a stranger, and he said that it was good for trade. I'm sure I don't know that, but I must get a new handkerchief, for I lost mine some way near the palace door. I asked many people, but nobody found it. There I was till it was near about six, and the carriages was still taking the company home. What a grand ceremony it must have been inside, thought I to myself. When I got home there were Mary, my wife and Maggie, my daughter, before me, and my cousin, the dressmaker, who had come to tea, and they had a grand story for me. "John," said Mary, "I never thought to see so pretty a sight in this dirty black town. Me and my cousin, and Maggie went to the house of the lady that my cousin made the dress for, and Oh! but she was pretty and nice. I did not need to be told that she was from our own country, she was so kind and courteous; and there was all the servants on the stairs ready to see the young lady, and there in the drawing-room was her friends. There was a grand old lady that was her grandmother, and there was her aunt, and her cousins, and three or four bit lasses, and the governess, and some young lassie, that was at the school with the young lady that was going to be presented, and me and Maggie got leave to be in there with the rest. Down came the lady after a bit all in white, with a bit rose here and a bit ribbon there, and her hair all shining, and a bit of a star of diamonds glittering amongst it, and more, John," said Mary, "it put me in mind of the day when I was a bride, and you

were a braw young lad yourself. Hoots! Mary, said I, I'm not so old," and I am not nearly so aged as she is, that's a fact, as you know and she knows, but Mary will have her joke against me. "Well," said Mary, "the young lady stood there in all her braws talking so kindly, and then came her mother in a dress that cost more than fifty notes, and ah, but we were proud to see how pleased they all were with my cousin's work. About twelve, the ladies got into their coach at the door, and away they went straight to the Queen's drawing-room. There was a great heap of people at the door to see them go."

"I'm sure they were tired waitin' in the string," said I, "What's a string?" said Mary. "If you had been with me," said I, you would know what is a string. I was looking at the ladies in the string myself for two hours by the watch." While we were all drinking our tea and talking this way, in comes John, my son, and may be he had the best story of us all.

"I never saw a house like you palace, said he. There's front stairs and back stairs in it, and there's doors like other doors, and doors that you would think were tables with crockery on them but there're doors and they open, and those that know the ways of the house can get anywhere and see everything, and I saw all the ceremony, and nobody knew where I was or saw me." Well then, says I, let's hear all about it. "That's not so easy," said John, "but I'll try."

"When I got there my cousin put me at one of the windows up stairs, and showed me the soldiers keeping guard, and the policemen guarding the soldiers, and all the carriages coming in with the company, and that was a grand sight to see in the square. After a bit we got down to the big door, and we saw the ladies getting out at the door, and going into a grand dark marble room as big as the church. We could see the company going up the front stair, with grand beef eaters and soldiers on each side guarding them from the enemy, but I did not see the enemy anywhere. After a bit we got up the back stair, and looked down through a window into a grand room as big as the cathedral at Inverness, which my cousin told me was the ballroom. "And will they be dancing the Highland fling down there?" says I. "Yes," says he, "and reels, and country dances, and the piper stands over there beside the Queen's throne." And what's all these benches at the end?" says I. "Oh, that's for the band, says he, but I never care about the band myself." Well, the ballroom was full of the grandest ladies that ever you saw in all your life, sitting in chairs like people at the sermon, and gentlemen in red coats, with cocked hats, going up and down and talking to them. "There's four or five rooms full of them," said my cousin; "but we must go, or we'll not see the Queen's room." So we got back from the window to the roof of the ball-room, and down through dark places till we got to the back of a door, and there I was made to look in. "I'll never forget that," said John, my son. "There, forewent me, was the Queen's own room, and all the grandees walking and talking so fine and free, for all the world like the drovers at the market." And what's that man in the kilt?" said I to my cousin. "That's Mac Calain Mhor," said he. "Oh! but I was proud to see the kilt on him." "Nae, pargie!" said my cousin to me in Gaelic. "Scotch," said I, "and who is that grand fellow near him?" "Ben Jure, the Chieftain," said he. Oh man, but I was proud to see my kinsman standing there in her Majesty's own room with her head all over diamond stars, with a cover on the top of it. "And who else did you see of our friends?" said my wife. "Well, mother, I cannot remember; but there will be a list in the papers to-morrow morning, and you can see for yourself." When we had been looking a while, in came the Queen. "God bless her!" said I. "Aye, God bless her," said all of us at once; and there came the Princess of Wales and all the other grandees and the Queen's young son with the kilt on him, and they stood in a row forewent the place where I was, looking over a table with a big jug upon it full of nothing at all.

Well, as soon as the grandees were in there places, the first of the company came in the ladies with long trains, as long as a plaid trailing after them on the floor, and they becket and bowed, and passed on, one after the other, so fast that I could hardly see them. "What's all these grand ladies?" said I to my cousin. "That's the Anbassadors' wives and daughters, and Russians and Prussians and Turks and Spaniards and Indians and Americans, and people from all parts of the earth, come to see the Queen." "And well they might," said Mary my wife. And there was the master of the ceremonies and the Lord Chamberlain, saying their names; and all the Cabinet Ministers in gold-laced coats with swords were standing forewent the Queen, taking the turns out of the trains and picking them up for the ladies. After a while came some Indians, with shawls and turbans and belgowns on, and the grand turk with a red Kihmarock cowl on his head, and all the Ambassadors bowing to the Queen and the grandees. "I'm sure they would," said I. "And then," said John, "the grand ladies began to pass in order, bending down to the Queen, and some she kissed, and some kissed her hand, and, Oh! but it was very pretty to see the young ladies all in white bending and bowing and saluting past the Queen. I never saw anything to beat that, and I never will. But some of them was frightened, I could see that well enough." "And no wonder," said Mary. "I would not be frightened," said Maggie. "I'm sure that the Queen would see in my face that I would die for her, and your father would fight for her, and I'm sure she would just shake hands with me kindly, and look pleased to see me. If she comes to our glen I'm sure nobody there will be frightened at the Queen—God

bless her; and I'll tie your plaid round my shoulders for a court dress." "You're no late Maggie," said my wife; "and that's true, she is a brave lassie, and fears nothing."

"But John," said I, "there must have been a great many of these grand ladies when they were all together." "Well," said John, "they told me that there was near about twelve hundred of them passed before the Queen and the grandees. They were more than two hours, by the watch, walking past; and if they were all in a row in their order as they walked, there would have been two miles and a-half of them in it."

"Well, well," said I, "that's wonderful!" "Aye," said John, who has been learning figures, "I was trying to reckon up the cost of the show, but it beat me. I'm sure that each lady's dress was worth more than fifty pounds, and some of their diamond crowns was worth more than ten thousand pounds, as my cousin said to me, and he knows well. And then there's the worth of all the horses and coaches, and the clothes of all the servants, and their posies of flowers. And then there were all the workpeople that got money for the work done, and all the innkeepers and housekeepers and shopkeepers that lodged and fed them all; and the gold-diggers and diamond-diggers that worked for all the braw things that other people made for the ladies to wear when they walked before the Queen."

"Father," said John, "it beats me to count up the worth of that show, but I am sure it was good for trade." "Faith, John," said I, "it may be all vanity and vexation of spirit to some folk, but I think there was something good in it. The people that saw the show in the streets were well pleased, and the people that saw the Queen and the show inside were well pleased, and the ladies were pleased, and the Queen was pleased, I'm sure; and I am well pleased to have seen the Queen's drawing-room this day, myself, though I am not fond of vanities."

I'm sure you will be pleased to hear about it Sandy; and so I wrote this letter to tell you. If you hear any clashes about extravagance and nonsense and the Republic, just you tell the folk what I tell you, and that's the truth about the Queen's drawing-room. It is just the grandest sight in the world, and it's good for the world to be free of fights and have time for shows, and good for trade, as the man said to me in the street, and as John said when he came home.

I am,
Your affectionate brother,
JOHN MACKENZIE.

P.S.—We will be coming home soon. Just step over to my house and tell the geese to mind the farm or that I'll mind him when I get to him.

HARES AND RABBITS.

We do not calculate on getting much accurate information from the Game Law Committee until the report is printed. There are, however, some figures which may stimulate, if they do not satisfy curiosity with regard to the importance of hare and rabbit skins in manufacturing industry. Mr Samuel Peck, a gentleman engaged in the business of preparing skins for hatters, said that from the looks of his firm and other sources, he had ascertained that about two million hare skins were annually used up in this country, about one million tame rabbit skins, and about seventeen million wild rabbits. A good many skins came from Scotland, and a few from Ireland. The trade was chiefly carried on in London, though it was pursued in half-a-dozen other towns also. Ten million skins were exported in addition to the twenty million used in Great Britain, making thirty million in all. Prices had risen to 3s a dozen for hare and rabbit skins together, wild or tame. The skin of the tame rabbit was worth more than that of the wild, being larger. Skins of the silver grey rabbits were sent abroad, and were worth about a shilling each. Eighty fur cutting machines were employed in London and the provinces, each cutting up 420 dozen skins per week, making 20,160,000 per annum. Each machine employed 25 workpeople on the premises, or about 2000 altogether, earning in wages about £1120 per week, or about £50,000 per annum. He reckoned that 30,000,000 skins would be worth about £500,000; and at 3 lbs. per carcase there would be more than 40,000 tons per annum; and taking the hares and tame rabbits at 2s, they would give £450,000, and the wild rabbits £1,275,000, making in all £1,725,000. This firm had commenced to breed rabbits by putting 50 on a two-acre field of poor grass, and would be glad to report the result. He could not say if two rabbits would increase to two millions in two years, as one of the members of committee had been told.

The question is very likely to arise out of all this, whether it would not be a good thing to take up the breeding and fattening of rabbits as a regular business, particularly in those sandy, gravelly regions, where they seem to be indigenous, and where next to nothing else will thrive. This would be a simple and satisfactory way of making money out of nothing. He who kept and tamed them within his own fences would never be assailed as an over-preserver of game; and he who encroached upon the preserve would be regarded as something considerably worse than a poacher.

If you court a young woman, and she is won and you are won, then you are both one.

A lady wishes some one would invent a legometer to attach to men's pedals, that wives may determine the distance travelled by their husbands when they want to "just step down to the post office" of an evening.

General News.

CARRIAGES exclusively for ladies travelling alone in railway trains are advocated by the *Freeman*.

THE Highland Society of London held its quarterly dinner at the Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich, on Saturday. Dr W. F. Ramsay presided.

THE West Yorkshire Miners' Union has voted £500 to the Pimmsoll Defence Fund.

DEATH OF DR PAUL, EDINBURGH.—Dr Paul, minister of St. Cuthbert's Established Church, Edinburgh, died on Saturday morning rather unexpectedly.

THE LATE MR J. S. MILL.—Earl Russell, Sir John Lubbock, Mr Fitzjames Stephen, Professors Huxley, Fawcett, M.P., and Jowett have joined the Committee formed to organise a national testimonial to Mr J. S. Mill.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR SHREWSBURY.—In the inquiry into the fatal railway accident at Condover, near Shrewsbury, the coroner's jury yesterday returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that there was no evidence to show the cause of the breaking of the axle of the engine.

THE following are the names of the Select Committee to inquire into the facts of the controversy between Mr O'Keeffe and the Board of National Education in Ireland:—Mr Cardwell (chairman), Mr Whitbread, The O'Connor Don, Mr Bourke, and Mr Gathorne Hardy.

MR FAWCETT thinks a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the best means of reducing the present inequalities of our electoral system, and is to move on an early day for the appointment of such a Commission.

MR CHARLES READE is gathering materials for a new novel, to be founded on the grievances which Mr Pimmsoll so zealously champions. The novel will be based on facts gleaned by the learned author from personal interviews he had with English mariners.

THE annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund was held in London on Saturday evening. Mr Froude presided, and in proposing the toast of the evening, paid a high compliment to the enterprise, the impartiality, and the power of the press in the present day. Donations were announced amounting to between £1200 and £1300.

EMIGRATION OF MINERS.—A return to an order of the House of Commons of the number of miners and quarrymen who have left the United Kingdom in passenger ships in each year since 1861, gives the following comparison:—1862, 1720; 1863, 3220; 1864, 3266; 1865, 5643; 1866, 6030; 1867, 5641; 1868, 8500; 1869, 9913; 1870, 4769; 1871, 5272; 1872, 5569; total in eleven years, 59,543.

ANTHOLOGY OF SACRED LITERATURE.—Mr Moncreu Conway is preparing for publication a work of very considerable interest. It is an Anthology of Sacred Literature. It will consist of extracts from the sacred writings of various nations, such as the Vedas, and the books of Menu, Zoroaster, and Confucius, and also selections from the Bible. The whole will be contained in one volume, published by Trubner.

THE Marquis of Lorne has suggested to the Archbishop of Canterbury the desirability of a fund being raised large enough to make it certain that the incumbent of every living should have at the least £200 a year, and has expressed the willingness of the Princess Louise and himself to aid in the establishment of such a fund. The Archbishop has replied, gratefully acquiescing in the scheme.

NEW CURE FOR CANCER.—Some attention has been aroused in the *Medical World* by the treatment of cancer which is now being pursued in London. The doctor who has introduced this method is a Hungarian, named Grob. He contends that cancer is not a local, but a general disease; that it arises from the presence of a poison in the constitution, and that the knife will never cure the disease, but only postpone its fatal effect. His remedy consists in setting up another disease, fever, under the influence of which the blood poison which causes the cancer, is thrown off. We are told that he has made some marvellous cures.

WOMEN BY PROXY.—A case of "love at first sight," of a rather remarkable kind, has occurred at Dysart. A worthy parishioner of Markinch having been smitten by the charms of a fair maid, had not courage enough to press his suit, but engaged a female friend to act the "lover's" part for him. This she did to perfection, told the maid how her friend had proposed through her. The couple are each beyond 60 years of age, and the other day, by proxy wedding, they met at the altar, and now, enjoy "love in a cottage" in their happy old age.

UNFRIENDLY CAMPBELLS.—At the Paisley Justice of Peace Court yesterday—Mr James Barclay on the bench—Duncan Campbell, joiner, residing in Glasgow, was charged with having assaulted Alex. Campbell, joiner, Tarbert, on Tuesday afternoon, in a carriage of the Caledonian Railway Company, while travelling between Greenock and Bishopston. The two men, who spoke Gaelic, and although strangers to each other, belonged originally to the same place, entered into an animated discussion of affairs Celtic, but the younger Campbell losing his temper with the elder Campbell, struck him several severe blows on the face. He was fined 20s, with the choice of suffering ten days imprisonment.—*Evening Star*.

LAW SUIT BETWEEN THE DUKE OF ARGYLL AND THE EARL OF BREADALBANE.—An action of proving the tenor, at the instance of the Duke of Argyll against the Earl of Breadalbane, was heard in the Second Division of the Court of Session, on Saturday, evidence in the case having been led some time ago. The pursuer sought to prove the tenor of a sub-valuation of the parish of Kilmilver in 1620. The Court decided in the pursuer's favour, finding that the tenor of the sub-valuation libelled had been sufficiently established.

PEACE AND WAR.—A conference of delegates from Trade and other Societies in Scotland was held on Monday in Glasgow in connection with the Workmen's Peace Association. Resolutions were adopted condemning war, and approving arbitration. A committee was appointed to petition the House of Commons in favour of Mr Henry Richard's motion. Another meeting of a similar character was held in London last night, at which the same objects were advocated, and similar resolutions adopted.

FORTHCOMING WORKS BY THE LATE MR J. S. MILL.—We are enabled to intimate that Mr Mill has left a full autobiography, with directions that it shall be published without delay. He has also left treatises on "Nature," "Theism," and the "Utility of Religion," the first of which was to have been published in the present year. Arrangements will now be made for their speedy appearance. The last production of his pen was a tract for the Land Tenure Reform Association, which will be placed in the hands of the Committee for immediate publication.—*Daily News*.

SNAKES EXORCISED BY BAGPIPES IN AUSTRALIA.—It appears (remarks the *Brisbane Courier*) that the frightful effect of the sound of the bagpipes is not confined to human beings, but is death to the snake tribe. The *Moreton Bay Chronicle* says:—Here's the latest snake story. We do not vouch for its authenticity. Mrs P. was thrown into a state closely bordering on hysteria by her little girl crying out that a huge snake had gone under the house. The alarm was soon spread. The neighbours assembled, and assisted Mrs P. in searching for the unwelcome visitor. They were unsuccessful, and in despair. Happy thought! Some one remembered that "music hath charms." Mr H. was prevailed upon to visit the scene, and stand behind with his bagpipes. Before a dozen bars had been played, his snake-spell made his appearance, to the delight of the charmer and the terror of the ladies and children. Mr H. retreated, still playing, and the fascinated reptile followed. When about twenty yards from the house the musician struck up "Love among the roses." The snake reared himself on high, darted out his tongue savagely, fell over with a guggle, and expired—lying as he had smiled. This was something like a snake.—*Evening Star*.

A CRACK.—No. I.

A HIGHLAND savage, whom adverse fate had sent to the Isle of Wight, was dozing half awake on a fine summer morning, when his bodily eye fell on a crooked black line upon the white wall of his bed-room. Gradually the faculties which did duty for his mind began to look out through the half-opened shutters of his eyes, and "take notice." The savage awoke to the consciousness of hunger. At last his animal instincts and cravings overcame his natural laziness so far that he rolled out of bed to eat. It is known to civilised men that all savages are curious, and this was a curious creature. While he elad his limbs in the hated garments of the Saxon, his eye, first directed by chance, got fixed by the force of habit upon the black line; and finally it was conveyed somehow to all that was human intelligence within the creature, that he was looking at a crack in the wall. Custom and conservative habit act strongly upon the Celtic character. The wild man had really begun to think, so, from force of habit, he could not stop thinking. That crack had got into his head through his eyes, and there it remained, while the man devoured luxuries to which he was unused. He had an egg for breakfast, and it was not fresh; but he did not find that out till the egg was cracked. He bought a gentle cheap cigar, and the leaf cracked. He went out to smoke, and looked lazily up at the wall of the house, and lo! there was a crack meandering from the top of the house to the bottom. "Waiter," he cried. "Yes; conin', s'r," and he came. "What's that crack on the wall of the house?" "Crack, s'r? yes; but don't know, s'r. Conin'," and off bolted the active Anglo-Saxon, who had no time to think about cracks. There was a crash. The active attendant had tripped over the pavement of a passage, and he dropped a plate. The floor was cracked, and the crockery was smashed, and the Anglo-Saxon was in an attitude of despair. "More larry, worse speel." The traveller paid his bill, tipped the waiter, put on his park, and marched on his way beside the sea. He had not gone far before his eye fell upon a crack in the foot-path. "Confound it," he said to himself, "everything here seems to be cracked." A coastguard's-man came sauntering along the path, and said "Good mornin'." He said it in such a tone that the traveller answered in Gaelic. The jackdaws fled; the sheep must have thought the men cracked, for their hideous jargon made the very air suffer with discordant gutturals and grunts, which seemed, nevertheless, to be music in their ears. The sum of their talk amounted to another crack. The traveller went round the undercliff, and round the Isle of Wight, and everywhere he saw things which had got into his head, though his eyes before he was well awake. The paths round the cliffs were all cracked, and some of them had opened, so that one side of the path had sunk. Some paths had

sunk bodily down so far that cautious passengers had to make new paths higher up. A great bit of ground, with a house upon it, had cracked off and tumbled into the sea, and had been washed right away. The whole town of Ventnor and the undercliff were cracked more or less. The cliff was but one side of an old crack, bigger than the rest, and the undercliff was the top of the other side, sunk down, and broken and cracked in sinking. "This whole island is cracked, or I am," said the traveller to himself.

Returned to London, the whole of that great world's shop was cracked too. The ground in Hyde Park was cracked; the people who walked upon the ground and spouted treason, and preached blasphemy, and recited mock litanies, which were not only blasphemous but idiotic, seemed to be worse cracked than the ground. The walls of great houses, and great stone pillars from Mull, were seen to be cracked from top to bottom, and nobody seemed to care. Cracks ran parallel to the course of the river Thames for miles, appearing on the sides of all walls that cross the cracks. Down in the coal countries the miners are undermining, and the surface is cracking everywhere. Men and masters are like their ground. Up in Scotland it is the same. All round the coast the hills are cracking and falling into the sea; all through the country the hills are cracked, and quarrymen know it by joints and fissures in the rock. The very people seem to be infected by the epidemic. Arent agitators setting landlords and tenants by the ears that they may prosper, while the others crack each other's skulls. Is not every man undermining his neighbour that he may overthrow him and step on him to rise? Go further north, and go round the world as it is described in the daily papers, and the whole of it seems to be as cracked as the shell of the Saxon egg, which the Highland savage did not eat, in the Isle of Wight. Here it is an earthquake; there it is a revolution; elsewhere a landslide; or the rise of a coast bodily out of the sea, together with all that is on the land; or it is a geological crack that runs through New Zealand with a heave or a ship, leaving the surface like the sailor's path round the undercliff; or it is Europe, which marches upon Asia, or splits up and fights by nations; or a nation which breaks in two, like France; or a city divided against itself, like Paris; or a house split from bottom to top like the house in which that unfortunate Highlander first saw a black line on a white wall, and was idiot enough to begin to think.

Now, my Highland friends of *The Highlander*, think of eggs and cracks at this Easter tide. Unless the egg shell is cracked, the chick cannot get out, and the man cannot get in. "The little wee housey, fou o' meat, and there's neither door nor window to get in to eat."

If you are cracking the shell and coming out, opening your eyes, and yawning, and stretching and awakening to the knowledge that you have got some dormant faculties which do duty for minds within your Highland bodies, think cautiously, look out for cracks in the way, and try not to fall into cracks—geological or metaphysical—when you begin your cracks with the world.

FAULIE.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HIGHLANDER.

THE BRAMBLE.

SIR,—In my travels through this country I perceive a luxuriant growth of bramble, particularly in spots in which hardly anything else would grow. I know numbers of places in the Highlands besides this locality in which brambles abound, and in which the fruit comes to a high degree of perfection. I need not say that bramble-berry jelly is both good and delicious; for every one knows it. Brambles, then, would seem to be easily cultivated, and the produce highly valued; but, strange to say, no one seems to think the plant worthy of any attention. We have developed crabs into rich apples, sloes into plums, the acid potato into the laughing murrhey. Turnips and cabbages, not to speak of the endless modifications of flower-yielding plants, may be said to be the work of our own hands. Now, it surprises me a good deal that no one has taken the bramble and placed it under conditions likely to develop the fruit. On a very little reflection, it would seem as if we might regard it as occupying in this country a place analogous to that held by the vine in grape-growing countries—only, that we do not give it the justice which the vine receives in France, Italy, and Greece. I do not see why we should not have our rocky precipices, our cottages, and our garden walls beautifully hung with bramble bushes, having, in autumn, black clusters of rich fruit. I do not mean merely such berries as we now see, but fruit as much superior to the present, as the apple is to the crab, or the plum to the sloe. I hold that the bramble, a hardy plant, indigenous to our soil, seems as if intended by the Giver to be of large and particular use to us, and that we should take steps to cultivate it so as to make it yield us all that it was intended to afford us. You speak of Highlanders making use of the advantages they possess, instead of looking after for what they have not. Will you carry out your own principle, and urge your people to set about the proper cultivation and utilization of the bramble.

In the meantime, perhaps some one has been doing what I have been thus imagining. If so, perhaps you or some one of your readers would be so good as to inform me and the public what has been done, how it has been done, and what the result is. At the very least, as one of the nature products of our part of the country, should have a fair chance given to it—equal to that which we have given to the potato and the crab.

TOM BRAMBLE.

District News.

LOCHABER.

Seldom has a finer Spring than the past been experienced here. The months of February and March, and the early part of April, were dry and pleasant, and the seed was got into the ground in a condition never surpassed. The average under crop is comparatively small, but frequent rains often make it difficult to get through with either spring or harvest work. The latter part of April and the beginning of May have been cold and showery. Grain, which was much required, has fallen in considerable quantity, but cold east winds have invariably dried up the moisture, and grass has not made the progress it promised in the early part of the season. The lambing season, however, has not been unfavourable. Ewes were strong; there has not to this time been any great deficiency of grass, and the weather, though generally cold, has not been, as often it is, rough and boisterous.

The tourist season is about commencing, and it frequently happens that about the end of May the weather here becomes more unsettled than it is earlier in the season. It might be to the advantage of tourists to begin their visits earlier in summer, and not continue them so late in autumn, but there are many obstacles to a change. Those who have been in the habit of frequenting this locality for some years will observe several changes in our hotels. Mr Mackenzie, who has for many years been landlord of the Lochiel Arms, at Banavie, has retired from business, carrying with him the best wishes of all his acquaintances, and is succeeded by Mr Macgregor, a well-known and the well-earned reputation of the hotel shall be maintained and extended. The accommodation is to be greatly increased, but this cannot be done till the present season is over. A new landlord is in possession of the Caledonian Hotel at Fort-William, and the Chevalier Hotel, lately opened there by Mr Cameron, of North Ballachulish, adds considerably to the accommodation provided for summer visitors. As to other matters there is but little change. The magnificent swift steamers of the Messrs Hutchison will soon commence to ply as usual, but the fares are slightly raised. The route remains the same as of old through our fine lochs and among our rugged hills along the great glen of Ailwyn. For all that is grand and glorious in our scenery, geologists now tell us we are mainly indebted to the glacial period which prevailed, whether fifteen thousand or fifteen million years ago, it is still impossible to determine. But, while the question is being investigated, tourists might derive no little pleasure from a "cat loch" in a loch Treig, both easily accessible from a good inn at Ivy Bridge, thirteen miles from Fort-William, on the Kinross road. All would enjoy the scenery, and those of them who have a turn for geology, might exercise their ingenuity in endeavouring to account for the "Parallel Roads" of Glen Roy, and the terraces of Loch Treig, the origin which forms as knotty a geological problem as is often to be met with, and which geologists have not yet been able, satisfactorily, to solve.

Other great questions of the day are faintly echoed here as well. The education question is considered by many as already solved, and in both the large parishes, which are included in this district, School Boards are busy re-arranging schools. It would be a great mistake to suppose that there has existed any deficiency in the number of schools in said parishes. The number in future will be smaller, much to the benefit of education, if not to the point of rate payers. The Kilmahle School Board has called in the able assistance of a well known Inverness, Mr Ross, to choose sites and supply designs for the schools under their management, and altogether show a commendable activity in discharging their duties.

The game question excites but little interest. The area under cultivation being but small, the damage done by game is scarcely observable. Ground game is not so plentiful as in many parts, and the moors are not overstocked with grouse, so that altogether little or no dissatisfaction prevails. A much more important question, in the eyes of many, is the right to kill salmon in our tidal lochs. Few of our fishermen can see that there is anything morally wrong in taking a salmon when they may catch any number of herring or cod, and certainly the law which makes the distinction is, on the face of it, much more unjust than the game law, and has greater need of being altered.

The question of landlord and tenant is yet but little agitated here, but the same is not the case with another, the "Union Question." This is not the place, however, at the close of remarks which are too long already, to enter upon the discussion of such a subject. A volume upon it would have little effect for good.

EASTER ROSS.

DUNSMILL, FORT-ARLY, Alexander Macdonald, a clerk in the office of Mr Shaw, Procurator Fiscal here, has been apprehended on a charge of forging his employer's name to six cheques on the Caledonian Bank. He drew altogether a sum of about £30, and his delinquency appears to have extended over six weeks. The case was investigated by Mr Munro, Procurator Fiscal of the Tain district, and Macdonald was committed for trial.

DISPOSING SALE AT DUNSMILL, NOVAE. On Tuesday a sale of the entire farm stock, implements, household furniture, &c., took place at Dunsmill. There was a large attendance. Prices were very high, particularly for fat beasts. Work horses sold at from £22 10s. to £74. Average 261 8s. ponies sold from £7 to £16, average, £29. Two-year-old stots sold from £20 to £31 10s. and all other things were comparatively high.

TAIN.—The copious moisture and genial, though short-lived warmth, caused crops of all kinds to spring up and to give fair promise of future luxuriance; but already the cold has had a prejudicial effect, causing the bread in some places to look blackish and unhealthy. Warm weather is earnestly hoped for and much required. VOLUNTEERS.—The challenge medal of the local company of Rifle Volunteers was competed for on Saturday last, and, after a keen contest, gained by Angus Munro, with the score of 46—a good one under the circumstances. SCHOOL BOARD.—This board met on Monday last, the proceedings being opened by prayer. The educational census of the parish showed that there were 533 children within the required ages in the parish, but that additional accommodation would only be required to be provided for about 50. A new school must be built for the village of Inver, but it is expected that Tarbat parish will assist in that undertaking. The board have resolved to maintain the use and went with regard to religious education.

WESTER ROSS.

KINTAIL.—In company with so many elsewhere, we, in this out of the way district, were glad to welcome the first number of the *Highlander*. We trust that many of our number will be induced by the stirring appeal of "Sigheanach" to become regular subscribers. To us the Gaelic department will be peculiarly interesting, particularly when supported by a contributor so favourably known, through the old "Chairist" and the new *Gael*, as a well-known Celtic scholar who penned the appeal for the "Mountain Scot." The district of Kintail comprises the two extensive, though sparsely peopled, parishes of Kintail and Glenshiel. The land owners are—Mr Matheson of Ardross, Mr Mackenzie of Kintail, and Mr Baillie of Lochbroom. Part of the heights of Kintail parish belongs to the Clisholm, but this portion is locally more connected with Strathglass than with Kintail. Mr Matheson is by far the largest landowner, having purchased lands formerly belonging to Lallington of Lochabai, Mackenzie of Applecross, and Mackinnon of Letterfearn, one of the Corry family. He has executed many improvements, particularly in plantations, which add much to the natural beauty of Lochduich. A great proportion of the land is in large sheep farms, many of the people having emigrated to make way for them. There are also several well-to-do small tenants, who pay from £10 to £30 of rent. Mr Matheson has added greatly to the comfort of these by improving their land, and giving them facilities for erecting dwellings-houses. By far the greater number of the people, however, live in villages, or rather hamlets, on the sea shore, and are dependent on the fisheries for a precarious subsistence. These have little or no land, and most of them are dependent for potato ground on the liberality of the neighbouring farmers and smaller tenants. When there is good fishing they do pretty well, but this has for many years been so uncertain that few of them keep themselves fully provided with boats and nets to prosecute it successfully. When not fishing, many of them are employed about the sheep farms and shooting lodges. Of late many of the young men have left the district to seek their fortunes elsewhere, when they might, with proper encouragement, have been making fortunes for themselves and others at home. Of deer forests, there is only one in the whole of the district—that of Glenshiel, on the estate of Mr Baillie. All the other shootings, with one exception, are let to the neighbouring sheep farmers, who sub-let them to English sportsmen. This may account for the fact that, from this wide pastoral district, we hear so few complaints about the Game Laws. The School Boards in both our parishes were elected unanimously; and, from the constitution of them, we expect them to work well. Mrs Matheson of Ardross having been elected to preside over the Board at Kintail is evidence enough that we are well advanced on the "Women's Rights" question, and that we are ready to give honour to whom honour is due. Mrs Matheson has for many years supported an efficient industrial school in the village of Dornie.

STRAINBOURNS. The weather still continues unsettled. The hills all round show a covering half way down the Strath, and both clover and corn fields, in consequence of cold winds and frosts, are slightly tinged with a shade of heather colour. The probability is that bright sunshine will soon follow, and that all the moisture in the soil will yet be necessary. Peat casting is already begun. We are not in a position to export any. Thousands of acres of peat soil lie waste among our hills for the want of proper roads. In the vicinity of Achmashon station there is a wide area quite available for operations either in the old way or by means of machinery. If arrangements could be made with proprietors and others concerned, great quantities of fuel might be obtained in places convenient for export, and at little cost. Improvements are going on on Mr Ballour's estate. Farm-houses for the rich, and cottages for the poor, with roads for the benefit of all, are to be completed during the year.

LOCHABERON. Shoals of herrings are beginning to show themselves in the bays around our coast, and several boats are engaged in the fishing, notwithstanding the unsettled state of the weather. Several crabs were secured near the island of Rona this week, seven crabs being the greatest take as yet; but when the weather becomes more settled, the fishing will be prosecuted with greater ardour. Several crews are fast preparing, and will soon start for the Gairloch and Stormoy fishing.

SUTHERLAND.

LAIRIE.—The grass parks of Achany have been let at a considerable advance on last year. At a meeting of the School Board last week, Mr Oliver Ross, writer, Golspie, was appointed clerk and treasurer.

HERRIDES.

DUNVEGAN.—Although accompanied by a regular gale of wind, the change which took place in the weather here on Tuesday—a constant pour of rain—must be very acceptable to our parched soil, and to the dry tongues of our drooping vegetation.

FORBES.—The weather still continues bleak and piercing. Vegetation is hardly making any progress, and cattle, sheep, and other animals, are hard pinched for food.

People are everywhere busy cutting their peats, and in most instances, owing to the scarcity of men, the work is done by women and boys. A great cry is raised at present about the "working of the mosses," and the manufacture of the peats, by mixing the moss with coal, &c., &c. Such an article may be very good, but it would not be "peat." The good old way, is to cut plenty of peats in May, dry them in summer, and stack them in August. That's the way the Gaels used from time out of mind to provide their fuel; and it is round this sort of fuel, blazing on their hearth, that they sang their songs and recited their *spunachdun*. Let every one take warning by last winter, and provide plenty good black peats for next winter.

The tourist season has already commenced here; never before so early; and never were we so well prepared. All the places of accommodation in the island, and especially those in Portree, have been thoroughly repaired and refitted during spring. An additional wing has been put to the Caledonian Inn, and the Royal Hotel has lately been greatly enlarged. The Temperance Hotel has been taken by Mr Sutherland, saddler, and has been thoroughly overhauled and refitted. In short, Portree looks quite attractive, although the chubbly halls are covered with snow. There is now a steamer plying daily between Portree and Stromeferry, and two steamers weekly to and from Glasgow, so the island is easy of access. We are sorry to hear that the obliging and popular landlord of the inn at Slighian is leaving. During his time, the inn has been noted as one of the most comfortable in Skye.

ISLAY.—Although our people have decreased to such an alarming degree, farming seems to have made considerable strides during the last ten years. Cattle and sheep of improved breeds are in-rearing. Miles of fences have been erected. Farm houses and steadings of quite a superior description have sprung up on every side. And so much have the skill and energy of our farmers and their servants improved, that last autumn, which was so wet, all the corn was secured with very little damage, and at an earlier period than in some parts of the North of England.

On the estate of Glenshiel, great improvements are in progress, the old thatched huts at Ballygrant have been pulled down, and the people removed into neat new cottages, which Mr Finlay has built, and which he lets at nominal rents. A fine plantation now flourishes where the huts stood. So, that altogether, *Bailh ghlen-shiel* is transformed into a *Bailh-bhallach*. The "Glen" from Kneibeleach to the road crossing from Bridgend to Port-Allen is metamorphosed. Fine farm houses and plantations meet the eye in every direction. The lead mines, after a long interval, have begun to be worked with considerable vigour, under the able superintendence of Mr Vireo, a Cornish gentleman. So that, on the whole, we are doing something here, both on the earth and under it. If we have a melancholy side, there is also a bright one.

TOBERMORY.—VOLUNTEERS.—The 9th Argyll Artillery Volunteers were last week visited by Captain and Adjutant Shepherd. The men, under the command of Lieutenant Sprad, were exercised for nearly two hours in carbine and company drill. On Saturday, the corps assembled at their range to compete for the Ladies' Challenge Medal, when eighteen competitors entered the lists. The conditions were seven rounds at 400 yds. After some excellent practice, Gunner Archibald Maclean was declared the winner with a score of 25 points. 110 yds. The mansion-house and shootings of Arros have been let for the season to Alexander Allan, Esq., of Glasgow and Liverpool. It is understood, that should the estate please this gentleman, he is likely to become the proprietor. Erray villa, the property of H. Nisbet, Esq., has been let to Mrs Reid of Gordonhill. Several other houses are being taken for summer residences, and the number of visitors promises to be larger this season than usual. APPOINTMENTS.—Mr Mackenzie, the Sheriff Clerk's Office here, has, we understand, been appointed to succeed Mr Munro as Sheriff Clerk Depute at Tain. Mr Blyth, principal light-keeper at Runnagall, has been appointed to a similar situation at the Isle of Man Light-house. SCHOOL BOARD.—The second meeting of the School Board for the parish of Kilmahle and Kilbrannoch was held at Dunvegan last Monday week. The minutes of the 21st meeting, connected with the elections, the Board were submitted by the returning-officer, and ordered to be paid. The census report of the parish was given in, showing the number of children in each of the districts of the parish as follows:

	Between 5 & 5 years.	Between 5 & 13 years.	Over 13 years.	Total.
Tobermory,	18	260	71	349
Tobernah, &c.,	8	126	24	158
Dunvegan &c.,	19	129	31	279

The Bible and Shorter Catechism are to be taught in all the schools, and the schools are to be opened and closed with prayer. The next meeting will be held at Tobermory. The weather is anything but satisfactory, and our farmers are in a state of great anxiety.

STOKESWAY.—The successful commencement of the fishing has already sent to the west coast a large fleet of boats to prosecute the herring fishing, and constant arrivals are daily coming. By the end of this week it is expected that fully 400 boats will be prosecuting the fishing from here and Holm, the next station to it. The fishermen seem pretty confident that herring is plentiful on the coast, and that a good fishing will follow. The first prices—as high as £5 a cran—received at the first by curers has rapidly declined to about 25s, which will scarcely pay; and crews are becoming alarmed that so much May fish, which is of course more immature than that of June, may influence the markets during the whole of the season. Prices here for fresh fish have been ranging from 5s to 10s per cran. Engaged boats are receiving 12s a cran and bounties. The following is a note of the fishing since last report:—

	Boats out.	Highest take.	Average.
MAY 2	11	7	2
" 3	11	7	2
" 4	3	12	1
" 6	3	12	1
" 8	130	22	7
" 9	118	22	2
" 10	114	11	2
" 12	155	42	2
" 14	105	26	1
" 15	106	9	14
" 16	65	8	2
" 17	114	28	2

Night storm—Many boats returned.

The total catch is about 2500 crans, all of which has been exported, as soon as cured, to the continent by steamers. A very serious and alarming fire took place last Wednesday morning in the extensive premises of Mr Andrew Gibson, fish curer, in James Street, used as a steam saw-mill and barrel manufactory, which resulted in the total destruction of these premises, together with the loss of a large number of barrels and other effects. The fire was observed first by Mr Norman Mackenzie, foreman cooper, while he was proceeding past the premises to his work. He immediately alarmed the owners and others, and in a short time a large number of townspersons were on the ground, and they at once set energetically to save what they could of the effects; but they had only removed a few barrels of the five or six hundred stored in the manufactory, some wood, and the leather bands round the wheels, when they had to leave the premises to their fate, which were soon wrapt in flames and totally destroyed. Happily, however, Mr Gibson had the presence of mind to open the safety valve of the steam boiler, and he was thus the means of preventing the explosion of the boiler, and damage to the surrounding properties, and perhaps to lives. Efforts were thereafter directed to prevent the fire extending to two ranges of sheds on both sides of the saw-mill, and which were stowed with barrels. Whilst one party of the constantly-increasing helpers attended to pouring water on the premises and cutting away the communications, the others applied themselves to removing the barrels and other effects stored. Men, women, and boys all worked with a will, and good results followed. The fire was kept from extending, and about 1000 barrels were saved. It was very trying upon those next the fire; the smoke proceeding from the burning barrels, and chips of wood, &c., was so suffocating, and the heat was so intense, that few could stand it. It was noticed that while the fire was going on and the people working, several Wick men came on the ground, and coolly looked on, apparently admiring it, with their hands deep down in their trouser pockets, and pipes stuck in their mouths. The loss to Mr Gibson is about £900. Mr K. Smith lost 500 barrels which were stored in the premises, and other parties lost other effects. None of the loss is covered by insurance. Great sympathy is generally expressed for Mr Gibson, who is a most active, industrious, and energetic man, and his saw-mill was of great benefit to the place.

SCHOOL BOARDS.—The various School Boards throughout the island are at present busily engaged taking the census of the children, between the ages of 5 and 13 years. It is expected that a large number of schools will be required in the Lewes, especially in the lowland part of the island, but as Government will give £300 for every school built, and £100 for every dwelling-house, the charge will not be so great upon the ratepayers. To entitle the School Boards to these grants, they must levy assessments, at the rate of 9d per pound rental by 31st December. We notice that permission is granted to delay levying this assessment to 31st December 1874, but as School Boards could not in that case apply for the grants until 1875, surely it would be preferable to assess this year at once, and get the grants, and be able to commence operations next summer.

STRATHPEY.

TILLOCH.—We have received an account of this region which is full of interest, and teeming with valuable details; but we are sorry our limits preclude its being inserted entire. We cannot but think that the School Board, or the Parochial Board, or some other local authority should step in and try to give an impetus to agricultural, horticultural, and architectural improvement. There have been many rich blessings bestowed by nature on the district, but they seem to be sadly neglected. Scarcely any of the arable land has been regularly trenched or drained, and so there is no depth for valuable crops to strike root in. Then the

water from the clouds runs down the slopes as soon as it falls; and after a very short spell of dry weather, the land suffers as severely from drought, as if no supply of moisture had been granted by heaven. Deep cultivation is as necessary against drought as against wet.

Then the farm steadings—many of them are very defective. There are no appliances for saving or utilising liquid manure, and the solid farm yard manure is exposed to the elements, and much of its substance washed away by the rain.

Fences are wanting, and much of the time and labour which ought to be available for other purposes is frittered away in unsatisfactory sorties after wayward cattle, and in keeping cows and calves apart. Every small farmer employs one or more herds during half the year, and still he is often in a state of uneasiness and chronic apprehension that his cattle are "in the corn." And frequently they are in the corn, and then what chasing, and turmoil, and disorder, and interruption to regular labour. The cattle are routed by dogs and pelted with stones, and labourer with cugels; and all because there are no fences. But why are there no fences, in a district where the requisite materials, stone and timber, abound?

Farm houses are without proper sanitary requisites, and decency cannot always be commanded.

Following up the account, we come upon the statement that the evils have been aggravated by the deer foresting and game preserving powers "annexing" much of the hill pasture, formerly in possession of the peasant farmers—they paying the penalty of higher aggregate rents for the remainder than they did previously for the whole. In this instance, the deer forests, not only encroached thus upon the farms, but literally abolished about a dozen of them, and dispersed the occupiers.

All these are matters on which the light of public opinion is required. Before long, the country will inquire what the landlords in such cases do as a return for the rents they draw, and what service the factors, who ought to be educated and competent men, render for their salaries and perquisites.

Tulloch is but an example of what can be proved in a great many other quarters, and what with game law injuries, deer mutton, scarce beef, and local taxation, we imagine that the gentlemen who neglect to make the most of the land over which they claim a profitable stewardship, will very shortly have to render an account.

KIRKMICHAEL.—THE SCHOOL BOARD DIFFICULTY SOLVED.—The School Board of the parish of Kirk-michael, in Randolph, settled the prayer difficulty rather adroitly. It is a great Catholic district. On the Board are two Established Church ministers, the Free Church minister, the parish priest, and the factor. Prayer was proposed. The priest objected. The ministers agreed to take it in turn, and to listen to the priest if the priest would listen to them. The priest, mollified, agreed to be listener, but not to pray. Happy family! Here is a solution not only of the prayer difficulty, but approximately of the whole religious puzzle.

PAPERS ON PEAT.

NO. I.

A LARGE portion of the surface of North-western Europe is covered with a peculiar substance of vegetable origin, termed peat, or turf. Bog-land or peat-moss, as the ground covered by peat is termed, occupies a large portion of the area of Denmark; and of various parts of Holland; and of important districts of France and Germany. Of the 29 millions of acres which constitute the area of Ireland, 2,000,000 acres are bogs of various kinds. Bogs are numerous in Scotland; and in the Highlands peat constitutes the chief fuel used by the peasantry.

The origin of peat is of great geological and chemical interest. Its chemical composition and its structure clearly show that it has been formed chiefly by the decomposition of various species of sphagnum, or bog moss; it however, is also in part formed of the altered remains of heaths, and of reeds, mosses, and other aquatic plants. It has been asserted that the existing bogs have been chiefly formed from the decay of forests, but this is not at all probable. No doubt the destruction of a forest in Ross-shire by a violent storm in the 17th century, is known to have resulted in the formation of a bog; but a microscopic examination of peat would in nineteen cases out of twenty show that it was produced from the lower forms of vegetation, and not from oaks, firs, and similar forest trees.

The formation of peat is going on at this moment in many parts of these countries. In shallow pools and marshy situations, mosses only partially decay, being converted into a vegetable mould, which formed a soil upon which other mosses grow. The roots of the mosses often decay, and assume a peaty form, whilst new shoots spring from the upper part of the stems.

Bogs sometimes grow very rapidly; an inch in depth per annum, being by no means an uncommon rate.

In composition peat resembles wood more closely than it does coal. Wood is composed of the four chemical elements, or simple bodies, termed oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon, besides a little earthy and saline matter. The value of wood, as a source of artificial heat and light, depends upon its proportions of hydrogen and carbon. The presence of oxygen and nitrogen detracts from the heating and light-giving power of the wood. When this fuel is consumed, a portion of its carbon and hydrogen enters into combination with the oxygen, and forms water

and carbonic acid, evolving thereby no heat, but on the contrary, carrying heat away from the fuel in a latent or insensible condition. During the slow decay of wood (or the fibrous tissue, or the substance of mosses, &c.), carbonic acid and water are evolved, and the residue becomes richer in carbon and hydrogen, the longer the decay goes on; because these elements taken together, are greatly in excess of the quantities necessary to convert the whole of the oxygen into water and carbonic acid.

Peat is the first stage in the conversion of vegetable matter into coal; and when dry its heating power is much greater than that of wood. By the further evolution of carbonic acid and water from peat, a substance termed lignite, or brown coal is formed. This fuel is not found abundantly, but at an earlier period of the world, it probably existed in enormous quantities. By a further loss of oxygen, lignite passes into the condition of a true coal. The most recent kinds of which (bituminous or flaming coal) include, however, a considerable amount of oxygen. The final product of this peculiar kind of decay of vegetable matter is anthracite, which is little more than impure carbon or charcoal. The following diagram shows how the carbon gradually increases during the conversion of wood into anthracite.

COMPOSITION OF FUELS (drawn at 212° Fahr.) 100 parts contain:—

	Carbon.	Hydrogen.	Oxygen and Nitrogen.	Ash and Sulphur.
Wood	50.10	6.07	43.00	0.83
Peat	60.41	5.94	33.64	0.73
Lignite	66.31	5.92	23.42	4.43
Bituminous coal	78.57	5.29	13.72	2.42
Anthracite	91.39	2.28	3.81	2.52

These figures must be regarded as absolutely representing the composition of peat and coal, for the amount of ash and of oxygen and nitrogen varies considerably in these fuels.

The nitrogen originally present in the vegetable matter, is to a great extent, sometimes almost wholly, eliminated in the form of ammonia—a gaseous compound of nitrogen and hydrogen. A portion of the carbon also passes off in combination with hydrogen, producing thereby the explosive gas, termed carburetted hydrogen, or fire damp, the cause of so many accidents in the coal mines.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the various kinds of fuel stand in the following order relative to their heat-giving powers; the best being placed first:—Anthracite, bituminous coal, lignite, peat, wood. As anthracite burns with difficulty, and emits no flame, or a very small one, its use is chiefly confined to the production of steam, or to the malt house. There are many inconveniences attending the use of wood, for example, the sparks that fly forth from the grate in which it is being burned, to the great damage of carpets and other articles. Bituminous coal is undoubtedly the most satisfactory fuel for domestic purposes; and next in merit to this, we should be disposed to regard wood and well-dried peat, or fire damp, the cause of so many accidents in the coal mines.

Peat is a light substance, its specific gravity being sometimes less than one-half that of coal. When first cut, it often contains 80 per cent. of moisture; but when air-dried, and in a marketable condition, it usually includes from 22 to 35 per cent. of water. It is difficult to desiccate it thoroughly; and even stove-dried peat generally retains from 6 to 10 per cent. of moisture.

The amount of ash or mineral matter in peat varies from 2 to 30 per cent. of ash; but in ordinary good peat, the ash exists generally to the extent of from 4 to 9 per cent. The heat-producing power of peat is, of course, diminished in proportion to the amount of earthy or incombustible matter which is present in the article. Should it be determined to establish works for the production of "condensed" peat, it would be desirable to select a variety free from ash. A simple experiment may be performed by the aid of an apothecary's scales and weights, a spirit lamp, and a little earthen crucible—can determine this point. Burn perfectly 100 grains, or parts of the peat, collect the ashes, and weigh them; they should not exceed ten grains or parts.

Now that coal is sold at from 30 to 45 shillings per ton, with but little prospect of any immediate important reduction in its price, it is well to direct a glance to the intelligence, skill, land enterprise of the people of these countries, if they allow the enormous fuel resources of our bogs to remain as they have remained for centuries, imperfectly or undeveloped. No doubt millions of the inhabitants of the British Islands, have for hundreds of years, been altogether dependent upon peat as a source of artificial heat; but that fuel has not hitherto produced a moiety of the heat which it is capable of yielding, if subjected to proper treatment. British capitalists are always found ready to invest their money in the working of mines in remote countries, in building railways in foreign lands, in supplying oriental cities with pipe-water and illuminating gas, yet here we have at home, more than four millions of acres covered with a layer of crude fuel, from 2 to 4 feet deep, wanting but the application of moderate capital, and a high degree of skill, to convert it into great sources of riches to the capitalist, and of employment and comfort to the people.

Mr "Charles Thawpison" recently ran his head against a young lady during a collision. "Ah, excuse me, dear," he cried; "did it hurt, ah?" "No, sir," she replied; "it is too soft to hurt anything?"

"SWEET ARE THE USES OF ADVERTISEMENTS."—"Late, late, in Auburn, Lovell's village of the plain, a man lost a package of money. He was a sensible man, and at once put an advertisement in the paper. In the morning, he found the money in his boot."

An unimaginative individual, on visiting the Falls of Niagara, was greatly perplexed at the astonishment expressed by his companions, and on one of them exclaiming to him, "Is it not a most wonderful fall?" replied, "Wonderful! no; I see nothing wonderful in it. Why, what is to hinder the water from falling?"

A gentleman, in search of a man to do some work, met on his way a lady, not as young as she once was, and asked her, "Can you tell me where I can find a man?" "No, I cannot," she replied, "for I have been looking these twenty years for one myself."

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This Company is being formed for the purpose of establishing a Newspaper to be called “*The Highlander*,” and to carry on the business of Printing and Publishing in the Town of Inverness.

The objects of *The Highlander* are:—To foster enterprise and public opinion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; to advocate, independently of party considerations, those political, social, and economic measures which appear best calculated to advance the well-being of the people at large; and to provide Highlanders at home and abroad with a record and review of events, in which due prominence shall be given to Highland affairs.

It is believed that this will prove a remunerative enterprise, and meet a want which is much felt.

“*The Highlander*” will give the earliest and most authentic intelligence on all questions relating to Commerce, Agriculture, Education, Religion, Literature, and Politics, and on all other subjects of local and general interest.

The Money and other Markets will be dealt with specially by writers versed in such matters.

All political and religious movements will be faithfully chronicled, and the actions of political parties subjected to independent criticism; whilst every help will be given to promote sound and patriotic legislation by whomsoever initiated. All parties in Church and State shall have a fair hearing, the Editor reserving the power of commenting upon what appears in his columns, and of excluding unsuitable communications. He will claim and accord full liberty to differ in opinion, at the same time that he will offer and expect a large amount of co-operation in every good work.

A primary object of *The Highlander* will be to awaken an intelligent and vigorous public spirit, and afford opportunity and encouragement to the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands to be heard in their own behalf and in matters on which they are best able to judge. Highland interests, however, will be advocated and Highland ideas ventilated in no narrow spirit, but in the conviction that Highlanders have duties to perform as well as rights to defend.

The paper will aim at promoting Commercial, Manufacturing, and Agricultural enterprise; and will afford a fair and respectful hearing to the manufacturer, the merchant, and the tradesman; to the landowner, the farmer, and the labourer. This, it is believed, will make the paper really representative, and secure variety and piquancy without resort to personalities; at the same time that a variety of forces, now latent, will be aroused to advance the general good.

The nation now begins to see that the policy of depopulating the country, and throwing the land out of cultivation, was an economic blunder of the gravest sort, carried out in cruel disregard of the feelings and instincts of the people. *The Highlander* will endeavour to give effect to the wiser and more generous views now taking possession of the public mind—advancing alike the real interests of landlord and tenant, and at the same time benefiting all other classes of the community.

Among the topics, therefore, which shall have prominence, are the Land Question; Game Preservation and Deer Forestry; the best systems of Rural Economy and Practical Husbandry; the establishing of Manufactures in the Highlands; the Fisheries; the working of Mines, Quarries, and Peat Mosses; the Utilization of Sewage; Railway Extension, Management, &c. Other questions will arise to be dealt with according as they affect the well-being and doing of the community.

Gaelic is still spoken, perhaps, over one-half the area of Scotland, and by considerable numbers in our large towns and colonies; whilst the learned of all lands look to the Gaelic language for valuable materials with which to perfect Philology, Archaeology, and other branches in Science and Philosophy. The views of both the learned and the unlearned shall be met, and the columns of *The Highlander* made, so far, racy of the soil, by some space being devoted to Gaelic articles, tales, poetry, and music, both ancient and modern. Occasionally, Gaelic readers shall be introduced to Irish, Manx, Welsh, &c.

Pictorial Illustrations, setting forth the attractions of the country, are due occasionally, if not regularly, in a journal issuing in the Highlands. The neighbourhood of Inverness, in particular, has never had justice done to it in picture or in print. *The Highlander* will be illustrated according as circumstances permit and require.

Inverness, which rejoices in such a rare surrounding of what is useful and beautiful, should be a large, wealthy, and influential town. A wisely directed public spirit will turn its advantages to account. *The Highlander* offers assistance, and appeals for co-operation, to work out greatness for the Capital, and prosperity for the whole Highlands from the many rich materials which they possess; and this appeal is made, confident of a hearty response.

EXCHANGE PLACE,
Inverness, 12th May, 1873.

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